

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 JAKART 13451 160153Z

64

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 CU-04 DRC-01 /131 W

----- 008313

R 150855B NOVN73

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9589

INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JAKARTA 13451

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT ID

SUBJ: SUMITRO ON POLITICAL PRISONERS, ETC

REF: A. JAKARTA 13013 B. JAKARTA 12266 C. SURABAYA A'14

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY. IN A THIRD WELL-PUBLICISED MEETING WITH STUDENTS (THIS TIME AT GJJAH MJDA UNIVERSITY IN YOGYAKARTA) ON NOVEMBER 12 "THE NEW GENERAL SUMITRO" AFFIRMED THAT GOI INTENDS TO CHANGE ITS LEADERSHIP STYLE RTO PUT MORE STRESS ON SOCIAL COMMUNICATION. HE ALSO ONCE AGAIN STATED THAT DETENTION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS ON BURU ISLAND IS TEMPORARY. HE MADE EQUALLY LENIENT-TONED STATEMENTS ON OTHER SUBJECTS. DETAILS FROM PRESS ACCOUNTS AS FOLLOWS:

2. ACCORDING SEVERAL PAPERS, SUMITRO SAID THAT ON APRIL 1, 1974(COMMENCEMENT OF SECOND FIVE YEAR PLAN) GOI WILL BEGIN TO CHANGE ITS STYLE OF LEADERSHIP TO PUT MORE EMPHASIS ON TWO-WAY SOCIAL COMMUNICATION WITH
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 JAKART 13451 160153Z

CITIZENRY. WHAT EXISTS NOW, HE SAID, IS NOT COMMUNICATION BUT MUTUAL SUSPICION. ACCORDING KOMPAS, SUMITRO SAID THAT FORMERLY THE ARMED FORCES HAD RELIED ON "HORRIFYING BEHAVIOR REQUIRED TO "FRIGHTEN THE ENEMY", (PRESUMABLY THE COMMUNISTS) BUT THAT THIS WAS A "FACT OF THE PAST" AND WOULD ALSO BE ALTERED.

3. SUMITRO SAID THAT BURU PRISONERS WERE "TEMPORARY DETAINEES" AND WOULD NOT BE INTERNED INDEFINATELY (FOR A SIMILAR PREVIOUS STATEMENT SEE PARA 3 REF B.) HE ASSURED STUDENTS THAT THE FAMILIES OF DETAINEES WHO HAVE JOINED THEM ON BURU ARE NOT PRISONERS AND HAVE SAME RIGHTS AS OTHER INDONESIAN CITIZENS. SUMITRO ALSO SAID IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION AFTER VISITING BURU THAT PRISONERS ARE HAPPIER IN "OPEN NATURE" THERE THAN THE CELLS WHERE THEY WERE PREVIOUSLY HELD.

4. AMPLIFYING EARLIER STATEMENTS BY HIS DEPUTY, ADMIRAL SUDOMO, SUMITRO SAID THAT DOCUMENT OF NON-INVOLVEMENT IN 1965 COUP ATTEMPT (SURAT BEBAS G30S) IS NO LONGER REQUIRED (IE TO GET A JOB) EXCEPT BY THOSE ENROLLING IN THE ARMED FORCES, MOVING TO ANOTHER PROVINCE, OR WORKING AWAY FROM HOME FOR MORE THAN ONE MONTH. (SUMITRO COUPLED THIS WITH A WARNING TO GAJAH MADA STUDENTS ABOUT CONTINUED DANGER OF COMMUNIST INFILTRATION ON CAMPUS.)

5. COMMENT: WE ARE NOT YET SURE WHETHER ABOLITION OF REQUIREMENT FOR "SURAT BEBAS" REPRESENTS GENUINE LIBERALIZATION. SUCH LETTERS CAN BE EASILY PURCHASED--INDEED THEY REPORTEDLY COST LESS AND ARE EASIER TO OBTAIN THAN LOCAL IDENTITY CARDS AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR MOST JOBS. MOREOVER THIS REPORT MUST BE BALANCED AGAINST DISTURBING EVIDENCE THAT GOVERNMENT IS PRESSING FORWARD WITH WIDESPREAD PURGE OF EMPLOYEES IN BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS WHO WERE FORMERLY MEMBERS OF COMMUNIST-AFFILIATED TRADE UNIONS (REFAIR).
END COMMENT

6. SUMITRO ALSO TOLD STUDENTS THAT MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENTS (BOTH PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL) ARE FREE TO EXPRESS THEIR OPINIONS AND WOULD NOT BE RECALLED FOR SO DOING. COMMENT:
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 JAKART 13451 160153Z

THIS STATEMENT WAS INSPIRED BY FLURRY OF UNSUBSTANTIATED PREDICTIONS SOME WEEKS AGO THAT MEMBERS OF (ISLAMIC) UNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTY WHO HAVE OPPOSED GOI ON MARRIAGE BILL WERE ABOUT TO BE RECALLED. UNDER INDONESIAN LAW, PARTY LEADERSHIP (WHICH IN THIS CASE IS SUBSERVIENT TO GOVERNMENT WISHES) CAN RECALL AND REPLACE MEMBERS AT WILL. END COMMENT

7. IN MOST DRAMATIC DISPLAY OF HIS NEW LIBERILISM, SUMITRO MET WITH US-TRAINED PLAYRIGHT W S RENDRA PRAISED HIS WORKS, AND SAID HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO STAGING ON RENDRA'S PLAY "THE MASTODON AND THE CONDOR" WHICH WAS RECENTLY BANNED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN YOGYA. (THE PLAY, ALLEGEDLY INSPIRED BY LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS, DEPICTS A THREE-CORNERED CONFLICT BETWEEN ARTISTS, STUDENTS AND THE MILITARY, AND DRAWS THE CONCLUSION THAT REVOLUTION WILL NEVER SOLVE PROBLEMS AND ARTISTS ARE NOT EASILY MADE TOOLS OF POLITICIANS). RENDRA WHO IS THE LONG-HAIRED DARLING OF INDONESIA'S MICROSCOPIC AVANT GARDE IS BASICALLY APOLITICAL (DESPITE HIS PARTICIPATION IN NIHILISTIC PROTEST DURING THE 1971 ELECTION CAMPAIGN) BUT HAS BEEN REGARDED WITH SUSPECTION BY AUTHORITIES UP TO NOW.

8. SUMITRO ALSO WARNED STUDENTS THAT INDONESIA SHOULD NEVER AGAIN BECOME A THEATRE FOR COMPETING INFLUENCES FROM GREATPOWERS. (IN ALL HIS DIALOGUE WITH STUDENTS TO DATE, HE HAS REPEATEDLY STRESSED NEED FOR INDONESIA TO ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH HER OWN NATIONAL IDENTITY AND TO STEER CLEAR OF FOREIGN INFLUENCE FROM ALL QUATERS.)

9. COMMENT: SUMITRO'S "NEW IMAGE" CONTINUES TO BE THE TALK OF JAKARTA. MANY OBSERVERS ARE BEGINNING TO WONDER IF IT SIGNIFIES THAT HE HAS PRESIDENTIAL AMBITIONS. (ACCORDING BANDUNG STUDENT WEEKLY, MAHASISWA INDONESIA, STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN BANDUNG "DIALOGUE" BLUNTLY ASKED SUMITRO IF THIS WAS TRUE. HE REPORTEDLY LAUGHED OFF THE QUESTION, NOTING THAT VARIOUS "MYSTICAL CIRCLES" HAD PREDICTED A PRESIDENTIAL DESTINY NOT ONLY FOR HIM, BUT ALSO FOR GENERAL ALI MURTOPO AND PLANNING BOARD CHAIRMAN WIDJOJO.) OTHER PARLOR ANALYSTS THINK SUMITRO'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 JAKART 13451 160153Z

NEW CONCERN WITH NON-SECURITY ISSUES MUST INDICATE THAT HE IS MOVING DECISEVELY AGAINST ALI MURTOPO, WHO UP TO NOW HAS BEEN THE FOREMOST ARCHITECT OF INTERNAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS. HOWEVER SUMITRO'S BAHAVIOR (ESPECIALLY HIS INTERST IN KEEPING UP A SYMPATHETIC DIALOGUE WITH STUDENTS) MAY ALSO BE EXPLAINED BY GOI CONCERN OVER EVENTS IN THAILAND, REINFORCED BY LONG-ESTABLISHED DOCTRINE WHICH ASSIGNS THE ARMY A LEADING SOCIO-POLITICAL ROLE. AS NOTED BEFORE, ALTHOUGH HIS PRONOUNCEMENTS HAVE HEARTENED THE INTELLIGENTSIA AND MOLLIFIED SOME CRITICS, OTHERS HAVE BEEN QUICK TO OBSERVE THAT INDONESIA NEEDS ACTION AND NOT WORDS.
KLIEFORTH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973JAKART13451
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731164/aaaajybz.tel
Line Count: 172
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. JAKARTA 13013 B. JAKARTA 12266
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Nov-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <17-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980312
Subject: SUMITRO ON POLITICAL PRISONERS, ETC
TAGS: PINT, ID, (SUMITRO)
To: STATE INFO CINCPAC
MEDAN
SURABAYA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005